

HAMNET BULLETIN FOR SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER 2002

HAMNET is the Official Emergency Communications Unit of the South African Radio League and is responsible for providing emergency communication in times of distress or national disasters to local and regional authorities, when requested to do so.

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IN THE BULLETIN TODAY;

BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY DECEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS SOLAR ECLIPSE WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER HAMNET 40M SIMULATED EXERCISE RESULTS THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE

HAMNET BULLETINS AROUND THE COUNTRY

KZN - Sunday morning at 07H15 on their local VHF repeaters with a relay on 7.070MHz

National Bulletin at 17H00 local on 10,130Mhz in the 30M band with a relay on 7.070Mhz

Gauteng North on Tuesdays at 20:30. The frequencies are 145,725MHz and either on 7,070MHz in the 40M band or 3,695MHz in the 80M band.

North West Province have a club bulletin on Mondays, which includes a Hamnet segment at 19H00 local on 3,750Mhz in the 80M band as well as their local repeater on 145.737.5Mhz.

Hamnet Western Cape Province with a bulletin on Wednesdays at 20H30 local on 145:700MHz, relayed on 3,674MHz.

The HAMNET bulletin is e-mailed to all those of whom I have an e-mail address and also sent out on packet by Rudi, ZS6DX.

DECEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Schools across the country close on Friday the 6th of December, which will be one of the days which we request HAMNET monitors around the country to monitor our emergency frequencies.

The dates and weekends that will be critical are as follows; Friday the 6th of December and that whole weekend as many people will start their various journeys over that weekend.

The weekend starting Friday the 13th is next as Monday the 16th is a public holiday. I also understand that Friday is when builders start their break.

Next we have Friday the 20th. This is probably going to be the busiest weekend as all who have not left on holiday, will leave on this day or over the weekend.

The following two weeks are true holiday weeks.

The 3rd of January 2003 is the first weekend when many motorists will start their journeys home. Schools start on the following dates; Gauteng, Free State, Mpumalanga, Northwest and Limpopo all start on the 15th of January. The balance of the Provinces starts on the 22nd.

The major freeways are in good condition. The N3 from Johannesburg to Durban is in excellent condition and has been resurfaced in some places. Be aware that building operations are in progress down Town Hill on the northern side of Pietermaritzburg.

We have already had confirmation from at least one Province that a special road information centre will be in operation. Johan, ZS4ZR in Bloemfontein has informed us that an information centre will be available at the Ultra City service station as you pass Bloemfontein. Should there be other HAMNET operators setting up vantage point cum information point stations, please let me know the dates you will be running those stations.

Late news, KZN will also have a roadside venue on certain dates over the festive period.

We again appeal to all operators, especially in the 40M Band to follow the correct procedures and allow us to monitor 7,070MHz without any problems. Please keep your transmissions short and leave reasonable pauses for operators to give their call signs should they have "traffic".

All main roads, especially the toll roads, are in good condition. Please drive carefully and take short breaks after every 200 kilometres or so.

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE ON 4 DECEMBER

At 8:20am on Wednesday the 4th of December, South Africa will experience the last total eclipse for at least the next 20 odd years.

The maximum effect will be observed in northern Limpopo Province and by all accounts, the town of Musina (previously called Messina) will grow to over 80,000 people. A partial eclipse will be visible over most of South Africa and you are again warned not to view the sun directly but to rather use good filtering material or prick a pin hole in a piece of paper and hold another piece behind it to obtain a good view of the eclipse.

We are aware of a few experiments, which will take place before, during and after the eclipse. Radio Today, a community radio operating on the frequency of 1485 will be involved in one of these experiments and it is suggested that you listen out from Tuesday the 3rd to gain information on the effect the eclipse will have on high-end a.m. stations. This is a Wits University experiment.

The other item that is of concern is the condition of the road, the N1, from Louis Trichardt to Musina.

This road is in the process of being rebuilt and also carries a large volume of traffic between the reef and Zimbabwe. We have been advised that all road-

building operations will cease before, during and after the eclipse period to allow free flow of traffic. However, be aware that there will be many deviations that may not be in good condition. Utmost care is suggested when driving in that area.

We will be monitoring the 7,070MHz frequency over that period as best we can, to respond to any emergency call from that area.

If you are going up to the area, and we are aware that many amateur operators will be in that area, we wish you a safe journey, a magnificent viewing and a safe journey home.

HAMNET 40M SIMULATED EXERCISE RESULTS

Congratulations to the following Hamnet operators who participated in the recent simulated exercise.

Single Operator Stationary Mobile:

1st Peter Smith ZS5SK 900 points 2nd Peter Hers ZS6PHD 420 points

Single Operator Portable

1st Al Akers ZS2U 1 584 points 2nd Dennis Green ZS4BS 1 530 points 3rd Michael Roodt ZS6BHF/4 1 386 points

Multi-operator Portable 1st Rudi Venter ZS6DX 1 530 points 2nd Secunda Amateur Radio Club ZS6SRC 936 points

Single Operator Base Station

1st Robbie Parkinson ZS6RAP 1 344 points 2nd Francois Botha ZS6BUU 1 204 points 3rd Bud Voortman ZS1B 1 080 points

It was good to see so many operators participating and good points being scored.

THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE

The press are warning of the possibility of violence over the festive season.

We do not condone violence in any form and will appeal to all who will be on holiday, to be extremely careful of the possibility of bomb blasts that may be perpetrated by an extreme right wing organisation.

We seem to be going back in time to when you had to be on the lookout for anything that looked suspicious like parcels, bags, handbags or containers left unattended. We are now entering a period where items may be so well hidden and camouflaged, that you may not be aware of a pending disaster.

Although it is not our task to be looking for suspicious items or articles, please be vigilant and report any odd situation to the Police. If you feel uncomfortable in a situation, please leave the area for your own safety.

Major Business centres are also sharpening up their security. Do not carry large amounts of cash with you. Do not leave items in your vehicle that could be

stolen. Be aware of card sharks when withdrawing money from an ATM. Do not leave your garage, gate or any access to your premises open for a quick grab & run situation.

A new trick in Johannesburg is that hijackers draw up alongside your vehicle and fire a shot at any side window. When you stop due to shock or fright, the perusing vehicle stops, forces you out of your vehicle and drives off with yet another hijacked vehicle. The suggestion is, don't stop, but drive off as fast as safe traffic will allow and report the incident to your nearest Police station.

FINAL NOTE - THE FESTIVE SEASON

The Provincial Directors, the National Director and the Council of the South African Radio League would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you, all of the best over the festive season, lots of new goodies to play around with and to have a healthy, prosperous and trouble free 2003.

We will be on air every Sunday at 5pm local time, even if its simply a propagation report or to share ideas and suggestions or even experiences. In-between, we will listen for your call or your chat even if it is just to brighten up your tedious spell behind the rig or a long journey still to be completed.

I would also like to thank all of you who have joined HAMNET during this year and to make yourself available when we need you. Your enthusiasm for the hobby and for HAMNET has not gone unnoticed.

73 Francois ZS6BUU

Bulletin ends.